THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • FRIDAY • OCTOBER 22, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 30 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW

newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress

instagram.com/newindianexpress

INDIA, OTHERS LOBBY TO SOFTEN U.N. REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

Saudi, Japan and Australia are also putting pressure on the UN to play down the need to move away from fossil fuels, BBC reports

'COAL TO REMAIN INDIA'S ENERGY MAINSTAY'

India wants to keep coal as the mainstay of energy production for many decades to come due to the huge challenge in affordability of producing electricity through other means, the BBC report said. New Delhi is also batting for more focus on nuclear energy saying "almost all chapters" in the draft COP26 report contain a bias against the clean energy source

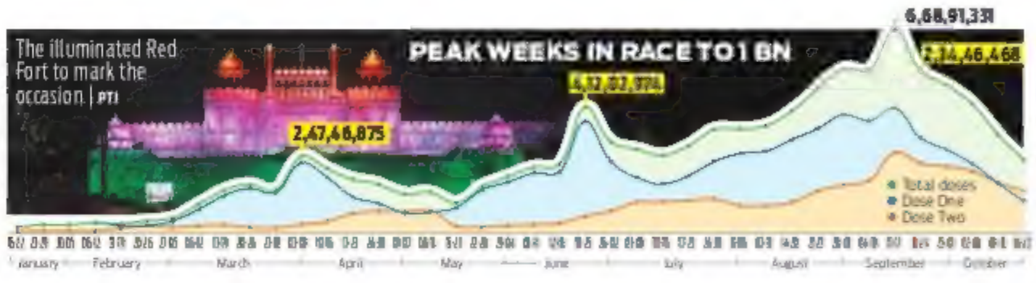
DRAFT PAPER DOWNPLAYS N-POWER

- According to India, nuclear energy is "established technology" with "good political backing except in a few countries"
- Many European countries have also said the draft report should be more positive about the role nuclear power can play in meeting the UN's climate targets, the BBC report added | P14

450 GW

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY THAT INDIA PLANS TO HAVE BY 2030

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI



Mt 100 cr scaled

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

TWO hundred and seventy-nine days after a massive nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive, the country on Thursday pulled off a remarkable feat by administering 100 crore jabs, largely supported by Covishield, which has remained the lynchpin of the exercise.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it a triumph of Indian science and that of the collective spirit of the people. "India scripts history," he tweeted. "We are witnessing the triumph of Indian science, enterprise and the collective spirit of 130 crore Indians. Congrats India on crossing 100 crore vaccinations. Gratitude to our doctors, nurses and all those who worked to achieve this feat."

Of the total doses administered, over 88% were that of the Serum Institute of India's Covishield. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin remained a minor player. Russia's Sputnik V, also available in India since May, had a very limited footprint.

India started the vaccination campaign on January 16, beginning with shots for healthcare workers. It was later extended to frontline workers, before being opened up for the 60-plus population and those in the 45-60 age group with specified co-morbidities. From May 1, the vaccination programme was opened to all adults. It picked up speed from June 21 when the Centre revised its inoculation strategy.

However, the target to fully vaccinate all 93 crore adult population by this year-end might still be a long shot as only 31% in the 18-plus group have been double-jabbed. Experts said India would need nearly 1.2 crore doses every day from now if it has to completely vaccinate all the adults by this year-end.

Besides, nearly 25% have not received even one dose of the vaccine while 44% are partially vaccinated. The Centre itself recently flagged concerns that a large number of people with one dose of Covid vaccine are missing out on their scheduled second dose. P9

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

October 20: 62,46,931 doses

October 21: 56,11,985 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 1,00,53,63,691

NATION WIDE	OCT 20	OCT 21
Fresh cases	14,623	18,454
Recoveries	19,446	17,561
Deaths	197	160

KARNATAKA	OCT 20	OCT 21
Fresh cases	462	365
Recoveries	479	443
Deaths	9	8

TEAM INDIA RESPONDS TO ADVERSITY WITH ACHIEVEMENT, WRITES MODI PAGE 8

Shah Rukh Khan leaves Arthur Road Jail after meeting his son on Thursday | PTI

SRK visits jail, NCB lands up at home

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

HOURS after Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan visited Mumbai's Arthur Road jail to meet his son Aryan, some officials of the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) landed up at the actor's home 'Mannat' in suburban Bandra. NCB zonal director Sameer Wankhede later clarified that it was not a raid and that the officials visited SRK's residence to collect some documents related to the cruise ship drugs case.

On Thursday morning, the 55-year-old superstar had a 20-minute meeting with his son at the high-security prison, where the latter is lodged after he was arrested in connection with the drugs case.

This is the first time the Bollywood actor is meeting his son since his arrest by the NCB on October 3 connection with the alleged seizure of drugs from a cruise ship. Earlier, Shah Rukh Khan had spoken to Aryan via video call when he was in NCB custody.

Apart from Aryan Khan, his friends Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha are also accused in the drugs case.

In a related development, the NCB on Thursday recorded the statement of Bollywood actor Ananya Panday. Earlier NCB officials had visited her residence to issue summons after her name was found in the WhatsApp chats during its probe against Aryan Khan in the drugs case. Ananya's actor-father Chunky Pandey accompanied her to the NCB office to record her statement.

She was called again on Friday for further questioning.

Can stay EWS quota benchmark, Supreme Court warns Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AN angry Supreme Court bench on Thursday warned that it could stay the Centre's decision to fix the income limit of ₹8 lakh for availing reservation under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category if the rationale behind the decision was not revealed.

A bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud was piqued because the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Department of Personnel and Training failed to file their affidavits in response to pointed questions framed by the court last week.

"We may stay the government notification fixing ₹8 lakh criteria for determining the EWS and you can keep filing the affidavits," the judges warned.

The court said it is not entering the policy domain but was only trying to ascertain whether constitutional principles were adhered to while arriving at the ₹8 lakh benchmark. "Tell us if you want to revisit the criteria or not. If you want us to discharge our duties, then we are ready to do so. We are formulating questions which you need to answer them."

The court asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj whether a report of the Major Gen (retd) S R Sinho panel constituted in 2010, which recommended measures for the EWS category, was considered before fixing the criteria.

UP AGAIN

PETROL, DIESEL PRICES RISE FURTHER

Petrol and diesel prices on Thursday were hiked by 35 paise per litre each, the second consecutive day of increase that took pump rates across the country to record high levels.

SC restores KCOCA charges in Gauri murder case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday allowed an appeal against a judgment of the Karnataka High Court which had quashed the charges filed under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) against one of the accused in the Gauri Lankesh assassination case.

A bench, headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar, restored the charges on an appeal filed by Gauri's sister Kavita Lankesh assailing the High Court verdict. Journalist Gauri Lankesh was shot dead on the night of September 5, 2017, from close range near her house in Rajarajeshwari Nagar in Bengaluru.

In its judgement, the top court noted that if the role of the offender is merely that of a facilitator or an abettor, as referred to in Section 3(2), 3(3), 3(4) or 3(5), the requirement of the named person being involved in more than two chargesheets registered against him in the past is not relevant.

The top court stated that regardless, an accused can be proceeded against under the 2000 Act, if the material collected by the investigating agency reveals that he had nexus with the accused who is a member of an organised crime syndicate or such nexus is related to the offence in the nature of organised crime. "Thus, he need not be a person who had a direct role in the commission of an organised crime as such," the judgment said.

The Supreme Court held that at the stage of granting prior approval under Section 24(1)(a) of the KCOCA Act, the authority has to focus essentially on the factum whether the information/material reveals the commission of an organised crime committed by an organised crime syndicate. P7

EXPRESS READ

MANY TO BENEFIT

DA hiked by 3% for central govt staff

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Thursday hiked the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) by 3 per cent to 31 per cent to benefit 47.14 lakh central government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners. This was informed by Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur. This decision to hike the allowance will put an annual burden of Rs 9,488 crore on the exchequer. PTI

TECHNICAL SNAG

IAF jet crashes in MP, pilot safe

Gwalior: An Indian Air Force (IAF) plane crashed in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district on Thursday morning, officials said. "An IAF Mirage 2000 aircraft experienced a technical malfunction during a training sortie in the central sector this morning. The pilot ejected safely. An inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident," the IAF said in a tweet. The pilot ejected safely. P10

WITH THIS ISSUE

INDULGE

30 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

Scribe, dad acquitted in Maoist links case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

JOURNALIST Vittala Malekudiya, and his father, who were arrested in 2012 by the Anti-Naxal Force (ANF) for alleged links with Naxals, were acquitted by a local court on Thursday.

The ANF had accused Vittala and his father Lingappa of supplying foodgrains to Naxals and had seized a few grocery items from his house and a pair of binoculars. However, 3rd Additional District and Sessions Judge B B Jakati, who pronounced the judgment on Thursday, observed that there was no evidence to prove the allegations and acquitted the father-son duo, residents of Kutlur in Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada district.

Vittala's advocate Dinesh Ulepady said the police had seized daily-use items like sugar, tea powder and binoculars. The duo were booked under Sections 120(b) (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the Government of India) of the IPC. For writing a piece on 'election boycott' and circulating it, Vittala was booked under UAPA Sections 19 and 20 (punishment for harbouring and for being a member of a terrorist gang or organisation). "The court observed that not a single person from Vittala's village had given a statement that he had links with Naxals and also there is no inference. We have urged the court for an 'honorary acquittal'," he said.

DYFI leaders greet Vittala Malekudiya and his father outside the court in Mangaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

Speaking to the media outside the court, Vittala said that at the time when they were arrested, the Forest Department and the police were 'harassing' the inhabitants in Kutlur area and were 'trying to evict them from Kudremukh national park'.

"We were arrested as we did not buckle under police pressure. We were sent to jail for three months for resisting. I was initially kept in police custody for 15 days. My mother was alone at home and my brother was also accused of helping Naxals. It was indeed a mental torture for me and the family. However, the villagers who looked after my mother, and the support from journalists and organisations like DYFI, CPIM and others gave me confidence that I would be free," he said. P7

DESIGNER BOOKED

Teacher-author arrested over inflammatory content of book

ENS @ Tumakuru

THE Tumakuru police have arrested an assistant professor with a private teachers' education college for hurting religious sentiments in a book he has authored. The designer of the book, belonging to a Mysuru-based publishing house, has also been booked.

B R Ramachadraiah (56) of Akshaya College, also a former member of the Tumkur University academic council, in his English book — Moulya Darshana-The Essence of Value Education', published by Halatti Lokesh, a designer with Vismaya Prakashana, had allegedly made derogatory remarks against Islam. Acting on a complaint by lawyer Roshan Nawaz, the New Extension police have filed an FIR under Section 157 of CrPC.

The author had suggested his 260-page book, priced at Rs 220, as reading material for third semester Bachelor of Education students. "Since the book disturbs communal harmony and spreads hate, stringent action should be taken against the publisher and the college, where he is assistant professor, must dismiss him from service," Nawaz demanded. P4

NO-GO ZONE FOR NOW

Heavy rain has been battering different parts of the country, throwing normal life out of gear. The Chamundi Hill in Mysuru too was not spared. A landslip on the road leading to the Nandi statue occurred on Thursday, cutting off the stretch | UMAYSHANKAR S

SURVEY PLANNED

Gig workers in state too can expect weekly offs, other benefits

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

GIG workers with e-commerce platforms can hope for better days with various benefits. With the Union Government proposing to revise the definition of employment to include new types of workforce, the Labour Department in the state is planning to conduct a survey of workers in the unorganised sector, including drivers enlisted with mobile app-based cab platforms, delivery agents and food delivery agents, to ensure that they get benefits like weekly offs and minimum wages.

The Centre is expected to include new forms of workforce, including gig and platform workers, and anganwadi workers, in a new set of reforms under the proposed National Employment Policy that seeks to ensure a fair deal to the workers. Under this policy, these workers will be eligible for minimum wages, weekly offs and other leaves and also other worker-related benefits like Provident Fund and ESI facility. Presently, gig workers, including food delivery agents and mobile-app based drivers, are not employees of the company — they are paid per delivery or trip and they have to bear the cost of fuel.

Speaking to The New Indian Express, State Labour Minister Shivaram Hebbar said, "Though the Centre is yet to finalise the policy, Karnataka will go ahead and conduct a district-wise survey of mobile-based taxi/autorickshaw drivers, delivery agents and also food delivery agents. We can provide facilities to beneficiaries only if we have proper data on them."

> If a worker who is registered on the portal, meets with an accident, he/she will be eligible for Rs 2 lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1 lakh on partial disability
>
> Shivaram Hebbar, Minister

Hebbar said he will discuss the matter with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and other officials concerned and a final decision will be taken after the October 30 bypolls.

Meanwhile, over 7 lakh people from Karnataka have registered on the e-SHRAM portal for unorganised workers that was launched last month.

Hebbar informed the Assembly in the recent session that there are over 1.6 crore unorganised workers in Karnataka.